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Private housing planned for downtown

Developers to build student apartments on Blossom St.

Kathryn Kranjc
KKRANJC@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Students can count on an influx of private housing options in the next several years, according to Fred Delk, executive director of Columbia Development Corp.

Columbia real estate companies are currently working with two different developers to bring new student apartments to the Innovista district.

Arnold Properties is expected to close a deal with Monarch Ventures, a North Carolina-based housing company that recently opened a 440-bedroom luxury apartment complex near Coastal Carolina. The

building is planned for the vacant property on the corner of Huger and Blossom streets.

Monarch's chief executive, Shannon King, said she spent the last year looking at multiple sites in Columbia before settling on the 3.98-acre lot across from the baseball stadium.

"Columbia is going to be a great market. We're hoping we can watch games from the rooftop," King said.

The property will stand at seven stories, according to design plans, and have approximately 600 bedrooms. King describes her vision for the complex as modern with high ceilings and a resort-style rooftop pool. Average apartment size will be 1,180 square feet, and bedrooms in each unit will have individual bathrooms and walk-in closets.

HOUSING ● 2



Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Developers are now looking to convert the old Palmetto Compress and Warehouse to student apartments.



Blake Welch / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Local contestants dream of Miss SC title

USC students among hopefuls in 2012 state pageant

Mikelle Street
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For second-year dance student Lauren Cabaniss, this week's Miss South Carolina pageant is about more than looking forward to her future. It also involves a bit of retrospection.

"I was a Palmetto Princess for Miss Greater Greer 2001 (Jeanna Raney) and [Raney] won Miss South Carolina that year," Cabaniss said standing amid racks of Lilly Pulitzer frocks at Pink Sorbet on Devine Street. "I'm Miss

Greater Greer now. So it's come full circle."

With competition preliminaries beginning Tuesday night at the Township Auditorium and continuing throughout the week, the current Miss Greater Greer hopes to finally complete the circle by being crowned Miss South Carolina 2012, an award that just escaped her grasp last year.

The third runner-up slot wasn't a complete disappointment though. For her first "Miss" pageant she won preliminary and overall swimsuit awards, which earned her \$6,500, Cabaniss said.

She started her pageant career in

small pageants as a 12-year-old to get experience on stage. A dancer from a young age, Cabaniss was looking to work on her stage presence for the solos she'd begin performing. She says that before long, she was bitten with the "pageant bug," and she was hooked.

"When I saw my Miss Queen win in 2001 I was like 'I want to be just like her, I want to be Miss South Carolina and then go on to Miss America,'" Cabaniss said of her Palmetto Princess experience. Through the Palmetto Princess mentoring program, Cabaniss joined the former Miss S.C. in

PAGEANT ● 3

Extreme Makeover: Russell House Edition

\$637,000 floor, furniture remodeling to be completed by August, McMahon says

Kristyn Winch
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The second floor of Russell House is currently closed for business, but students will see big changes when returning to campus in August.

On July 6, the university began a 35-day construction project to renovate and update the floors on the second level of the Russell House. These renovations include construction on the Greene Street stairwell from the basement to the third floor as well as new tile and new furniture in the second level lobby. The floor project is estimated at \$437,000 and the new furniture cost about \$200,000. The projects are covered by a combination of Russell House development funds collected from the student activity fee and other generated funds.

The current construction has caused a bit of relocation and re-routing of traffic. Because the entrances to several offices have been blocked, the majority of the Russell House staff has relocated to the Student Life Center until the project is complete.

"We are still completely operational in the building," said Kim McMahon, director of the Russell House University Union.

The renovations are scheduled to be completed by the time fall semester begins. So far, the crew is operating right on schedule.

"The project started Friday at 5 p.m. and they were in here at 5:01 p.m., bringing in equipment, chipping tiles," McMahon said. "We are all committed to ensuring that the

RUSSELL HOUSE ● 3



Blake Welch / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Construction on the Russell House's second floor began Friday, July 6, and is expected to finish by move-in day.

Ellis steps down, hopes for improved 2012 rush week

Fraternities face stricter policies, later recruitment

Kathryn Kranjc
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After a year of patching up last August's hazing scandal and working to rebuild the organization's reputation, Associate Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Keith Ellis is stepping down, leaving Student Life and the Fraternity Council to carry out a slew of changes to this fall's recruitment.

Ellis spent the past year dealing with incident reports and promoting alcohol awareness in rebuilding USC's fraternities after last year's rush halt, but he says that's only part of a much larger problem that isn't unique to just Greek organizations.

"I think we still have a lot of work to do," Ellis said. "I'm very confident in the leadership we have here and the rest of the staff will be able to continue the work that they did."

In stepping down, Ellis says he will remain involved as a risk management advisor, though he would not specify on Monday for which fraternity. Such boards are now a part of many fraternities as a result of last year's rush suspension, while five fraternities collectively shed 300 brothers through membership evaluation cut-outs.

"It was a tough year," Ellis said. "We had a lot more losses than we did wins."

Ellis says he will use his time to work on his doctoral dissertation on hazing. A full-time doctoral student at the University of Kentucky, he had intended to carry out his research while working at USC. But when rush week was slammed with alcohol and legal scandals, and subsequent media attention, he found himself preoccupied with doctoring USC's image and pushing for dry policy enforcement.

"I really want to give that work the time it needs, especially now when there's so much national attention on it," Ellis said. "It's a prime time to make an impact as we educate the world on hazing and what it does to students."

Ellis hopes that this year, fraternities will abide by strict alcohol-free rush standards that he and Fraternity Council President Jordan Cox insist have always been in place, but not well-enforced. Recruitment week is to be 100 percent dry, and violators will face a \$2,500 fine and revoked recruitment privileges on first offense. A second offense will strip the organization of a recruiting class for the following semester as well, and a third offense will bring a chapter review meeting by the Greek Conduct Board, composed of sixteen fraternity and sorority presidents.

"When we have someone break a rule, we want to address it from our end first before it gets worse," Fraternity

RUSH ● 2

WEATHER

Wednesday
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Thursday
90° 73°

MIX

INSIDE

Breakers Bar & Grill
Five Points gains a new dining location as the nightlife hot spot adds lunch and dinner to its offerings.
See page 5

VIEWPOINTS

Wall Street unethical
Study shows bankers don't self-regulate, so consumers need to take responsibility to incentivize good behavior
See page 4

SPORTS

Football awards
Lattimore, Taylor and Clowney were named to pre-season watch lists for collegiate honors.
See page 8

J-school hires new leadership for ‘Carolina Reporter’

Gump to take over for Fisher in senior semester

Julianne Lewis
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Renowned journalist Deborah Gump will join Scott Farrand to head the print journalism’s “senior semester” program, which produces Carolina Reporter, a weekly paper.

Gump is the former director of print for the Washington, D.C., Committee of Concerned Journalists. She is a longtime colleague of USC School of Journalism and Mass Communications professors Carol Pardun and Doug Fisher. When Pardun heard that Gump’s term at Middle Tennessee State University was ending, she jumped at the opportunity to bring her to USC’s program.

“She’s a terrific journalist with huge professional experience,” said Pardun. “The most logical place for her was senior semester.”

Fisher is already teaching five courses, and Pardun said Gump’s entrance will provide him some relief.

Pardun said last semester’s visiting

professor, Rob Wells from Arizona State’s Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications, attracted several business journalists to USC. She hopes that Gump’s two-year professorship will bring even more influence.

Pardun believes Gump has the ability to inspire students and establish growth in the print journalism sequence, which is notoriously smaller than the other sequences in USC’s College of Mass Communications and Information Studies.

Only seven students are currently enrolled in the fall’s senior semester, which will give Gump the chance to get to know them individually and still have time to work with other school organizations.

“I hope I am engaged with as many students as possible,” said Gump. “If they’re in my classes or not, if they want to talk about the future, I want to talk to them.”

At Middle Tennessee State University, Gump was the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. She has also been a visiting professor at Ohio

University, senior editor of the Marin Independent Journal, national news editor of the San Jose Mercury News and a reporter for the Times-Union from Rochester, N.Y. Gump created EditTeach.org, an interactive editing education program that provides resources to professors, students and professionals.

Gump met Pardun while working on her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Gump will tailor the program to fit the students and the audience. She said one of the great things about the program is that it can be completely different and can adapt to the community.

“It’s really wide open with what we can do for senior semester given the tradition and the potential,” Gump said.

The flow of information and convergence of print and online journalism necessitates constant change in the journalism curriculum, which is experiencing an overhaul, said Pardun. Gump’s experience with new media will fit well with the coming curriculum.

“The days of strictly working in a



Courtesy of Deborah Gump
Deborah Gump will take over for Doug Fisher to lead the J-school’s “senior semester.”

classroom and with ‘fake’ stories is ending,” said Gump. “Universities are now a part of the information flow for communities.”

Comments on this story?
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HOUSING ● Continued from 1

King expects to start construction within the next year and to open the new apartments by 2014. She and Delk also hope that the project will help develop more walkways and bike paths from the Innovista district to the university, which are about two blocks apart.

“We’re bringing an urban college lifestyle closer to the campus,” King said. “I was shocked at how far student housing was in Columbia. Most operators would like to be within a mile of campus, but because the university borders a business district, it’s challenging to find land that close.”

These closer student apartments could be an alternative to the residential neighborhoods surrounding Five Points, where Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Jerry Brewer says complaints have risen from neighborhood associations about student partying and other problems.

While rent has not yet been decided,

rates for the apartments near Coastal Carolina, including utilities and furniture, range from \$595 to \$650 per resident. King anticipates Columbia rates to be just higher than that.

“We’re in the process of working with the city so we can begin to build,” King said.

Meanwhile, another developer is looking at converting the 300,000-square-foot Palmetto Compress and Warehouse into student apartments. Belk says this isn’t the first time developers have shown interest in the century-old building, which is listed among Richland County’s National Register of Historic Places, but projected costs of working around the warehouse’s old architecture have driven away many prospects.

But with the building’s history as a cotton warehouse and prime location, Belk suspects that someone will make the leap soon. At least he hopes so. In addition to the 600 residences brought

by the Monarch at USC, another 600-bed complex would double Columbia’s downtown residency. Belk expects to see more apartments pop up along Assembly Street as USC’s student population continues to grow and demand for living space increases.

“I feel confident we’ll be hearing a lot about these new developments over the next several years,” Belk said. “We’re living in a changing world where a lot of people wouldn’t mind not fighting traffic, where students want to live within walking distance. There’s a real advantage in getting away from all of that.”

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Courtesy of Monarch Venture
Units at Monarch apartments would come fully furnished with individual bathrooms and walk-in closets. Monarch has already opened a complex near Coastal Carolina.

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RUSH ● Continued from 1

Council Vice President of Recruitment Zack King said.

Other changes include a higher GPA requirement, from 2.5 to 2.75. Official fraternity recruitment has also been pushed back to the week of Sept. 9, with optional academic and leadership sessions scheduled in the two weeks before

rush. Fraternities and potential pledges will also be required to participate in a community service project before recruitment. Sorority recruitment will remain the first week of school.

“I’m looking forward to everything being back on track for our recruitment process,” King said. “I want to be known for how well

we do recruitment, not how badly (we did it). Going to conferences and seeing how people think of us in terms of recruiting because of last year, I want to change that stereotype back to a positive.”

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PAGEANT ● Continued from 1

appearances, volunteer opportunities and the Miss South Carolina Pageant production.

It's not all smiles and poses for Cabaniss though, who explained a schedule of two-a-day rehearsals, lunch appearances and competition for the week. "I wouldn't really call it a sport but overall it's a great learning experience," she said. "It covers so many spectrums of what you're doing. It covers the service, the speaking, the athleticism because you're working out for the swimsuits, you're having to perform a talent so it even covers the arts."

Because of the scope of the competition, the contestants are constantly preparing with interview coaches and personal trainers and having photography sessions.

Cabaniss isn't the only USC representative in the pageant. Third-year public relations student and Miss Capital City Anna Mills Polatty wowed the audience in Monday night's talent portion, taking first place for her vocal performance. In her introductory video, Polatty said that having been born premature and not expected to live, she was especially inspired by the pageant's affiliation with the Children's Miracle Network.



Blake Welch / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Anna Mills Polatty (top) won Monday's talent competition while Lauren Cabaniss (bottom) earned high marks for swimsuits.

RUSSELL HOUSE ● Continued from 1

project is done and is done well. It'll be an end product that people will be proud of."

While closing down part of the building during the summer isn't ideal, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Jerry Brewer says the end result in August will be a major improvement for the Russell House.

"It's going to be a dramatic difference when people come back," Brewer said. "The whole second floor will be immensely more pleasing."

The new flooring on the second level will incorporate the university's signature colors.

"We actually went with a garnet and black color schematic. That was a good fit for the physical structure of the second floor, which already has the granite and stone walls," McMahon said.

Ribbons in the floor pattern are designed to look like Cocky's feathers while serving a dual purpose of directing foot traffic throughout the building.

The seating on the second floor

lobby is getting a makeover, too.

"We are using a variety of different types of furnishing. We've got some individual chairs, we've got some benches, we've got chairs to sit at tables, we've also got some more lounge-y type chairs so that people can do different types of things," McMahon said. "There's almost twice as much seating."

The 54 seats that currently occupy the second floor lobby are all the same chairs. The current end tables are all of the same model, too. The renovated lobby will use six different types of seating and three different types of tables.

The lobby will also feature a new information center and will place the Russell portraits in a more prominent area.

McMahon said the renovations will change the atmosphere of the building entirely.

"It's going to feel a lot brighter and a lot happier," she said.

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CLAIRE POTTS

JUNIOR, ADVERTISING MAJOR

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Downtown housing
benefits students, city

Columbia will be gaining several new off-campus housing complexes within the next few years and students won't be the only ones reaping the benefits.

We think more housing downtown will benefit Columbia as a whole as well.

“Although the Monarch will not be completed until 2014, it is a smart move for the community and a must due to enrollment at USC.”

Monarch Ventures, a 600-bed apartment complex set to inhabit the lot across from Carolina Stadium, will join the recently approved Palmetto Center in revving up downtown

student living. These communities will likely encourage the development of more sidewalks and bike paths between the complex and campus, allowing for environmentally-friendly and safe travel for those in the new buildings and in the other complexes just over the bridge, like Riverside and Garnet River Walk. It could also alleviate some of the parking woes, as 600 — or even 200 — fewer cars on campus would make a huge difference for both commuting and residential students.

Although Monarch will not be completed until 2014, it is a smart move for the community and a must due to the rapid rate at which students are choosing USC.

After recent huge enrollment increases, many upperclassmen have opted to rent houses in the Five Points and Shandon neighborhoods. While these houses are close to campus, it also means handling complaints from non-student neighbors. In an apartment setting inhabited by mostly peers, students don't have to worry as much about disturbing neighbors with late-night revelry or crowded game-day driveways. It means a student-friendly community that's closer to campus than Copper Beach, the Retreat or the Woodlands without the added cost of living in a residence hall.

And with 600 to 1200 more residents downtown, business in the city will most likely experience a boost. Who knows? Maybe it'll inspire something to finally crop up in the Innovista building.



Citizens must promote Wall Street ethics

Consumers responsible
for preventing corruption

Apparently Wall Street is at it again — or, more accurately, has been at it for quite some time. Every day the U.S. spends on the road to financial recovery is one more day to learn, and learn again, how astonishingly out-of-control today's market is.

According to a Labaton Sucharow study released Tuesday, many of the market players on Wall Street believe that unethical practices and conduct are not only permissible — they're necessary to get ahead. Nearly 30 percent of those who answered the survey felt that their institutions incentivized breaking the rules. Sixteen percent admitted flat-out that they would engage in insider trading if they knew no one would catch them.

The hard lessons that many Americans have learned from the Great Recession have apparently slipped by unnoticed for the men and women who caused it. For Wall Street, it continues to be business as usual.

How do we get a sense of integrity back into our financial markets? The words “government intervention” often seem to point in a good direction, before they get lost in shouting matches between so-called capitalists and socialists — terms that each political side uses to denounce its opponents. No matter what party is in power today or 10 years from now, the fact of the matter remains that today's

financial market has become too corrupt to trust but too convoluted and menacing to do anything about.

Whistleblower protections are another avenue, but the survey went on to report that relatively few financial workers knew the benefits of these programs. And, in simplest terms, nobody likes a tattletale — meaning that many financial employees feel that, by trying to keep their industry accountable, they would be putting themselves and their careers in danger.

Perhaps it all starts with the consumer. After all, we are all customers of the financial system — our loans and mortgages, our savings and investments. Organic foods and “made in America” products are all results of consumers using their buying power to change the way an industry does business. Perhaps we can do the same for Wall Street. If we took an active interest in how our banks use our money — not just in terms of their investment risks, but in terms of their effects on the market as a whole — we may be able to change a culture that for years has rewarded taking the easy road to getting a profit rather than the high road.

Instead of crying for the government to save us, or believing that an invisible hand will come along and make everyone moral again, we can turn the American consumer base into a formidable force that Wall Street will have to answer to every time it steps out of line. It all starts with asking the right questions and doing research to find out just what these people do with your hard-earned dollars — and threatening to take your business elsewhere when they fail to meet your standards.

Obamacare
lacks flexibility,
affordability

Citizens need room to
develop own solutions

The best method to solve problems is to come up with solutions yourself. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling to uphold the individual mandate could be improved to give Americans more room to use their own judgment to solve problems.

Obamacare forces states to put more people onto their Medicaid rolls. Though this is well-intentioned, the policy will only create more problems for states striving to maintain financial stability and negatively affect the poorest states.

Allowing low-income citizens to start a health savings account along with their Medicaid would lessen the strain. States would save money and citizens would also have more power over their insurance.

The government should also encourage low-income families to get their children preventive health screenings through school nurses. If follow-up care is needed they could be sent to a family doctor or university for community-based care. Programs like this would encourage people to think ahead with their health care.

Obamacare has several limitations when it comes to making health care accessible, but some programs could make a healthy life more widely available and affordable to citizens. As with homes, health care should be available in many different price ranges based on what each family can afford. Everyone should have the opportunity to live a healthy life within their financial situation — and this can be accomplished without an encroaching or overbearing government.



Jordan Cooper
Fourth-year
history student

Texas ‘War on Thinking’ harms democracy

Republican platform opposes American
foundation of intellectual criticism

We had the Cold War, the War on Drugs, the War on Terror, the War on Women, and an unending list of other “wars” manufactured by our government.

Now, Republicans have officially launched the War on Thinking.

The platform of the Republican Party of Texas includes the following language: “Knowledge-Based Education — We oppose the teaching of Higher Order Thinking Skills, critical thinking skills and similar programs that are simply a relabeling of Outcome-Based Education ... which focus on behavior modification and have the purpose of challenging the student's fixed beliefs and undermining parental authority.”

In short, the Texas GOP is worried that teaching kids to think for themselves will result in the destabilizing of society.

So, add thinking to the list of problems Republicans think is destroying the nation — birth control, universal

health care, business regulation, gay marriage, Islamic law, single mothers and liberals among them.

America was founded by men and women who questioned what they had been taught. Large numbers of the colonists were Protestants who felt there was a better way of worship than the centralized hierarchies of the Catholic and Anglican churches. The American Revolution was fought by men who believed that theirs was a land where men could be equal.

We are a country of rebels, always adapting, always growing. That spirit of rebellion is an essential quality of Americans, enshrined in the Constitution.

Now Texas Republicans want to take that away. They know that all of their policies are justified on the flimsiest of grounds. They know that any examination of their principles would reveal their hypocrisy. They know that education is the key to their downfall. That is why they must crush curiosity.

Texas is infamous among educational professionals

for its power to edit the content of textbooks. Republicans have turned this into an indoctrination process as well, particularly in the realms of history and social studies. The Texas State Board of Education, composed mostly of conservatives appointed by the governor, has launched a radical agenda designed to wipe any liberal thought from the past learned by students.

Thomas Jefferson, a great Enlightenment thinker as well as founding father and president, was nearly removed from textbooks due to his “liberal” views. Students are required to learn about the rise of the modern Republican Party in the 1980s and '90s, including participation by the Moral Majority and National Rifle Association, but not discussion of progressives from the early 20th century.

Conservatives decry universities as liberal bastions. Republicans have slashed education budgets to the bone and pushed for “school choice” that would allow them to stop funding the common child.

The only weapon we have against these tactics is knowledge. That's why the Republicans want to destroy access to it.



Scott Horn
Third-year
political science
student

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author's name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today's edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.



Recent USC grad opens new restaurant, serves handmade specials

Julianne Lewis
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Breakers Bar and Grill, which opened this spring in Dr. Rocco’s old location, has already undergone huge renovations. As the interior and exterior of the bar continue to improve cosmetically, the hot spot’s menu is receiving a facelift as well.

“It’s not Dr. Rocco’s anymore. It’s new and clean and the food is amazing,” said Karlyn Laux, a second-year nursing student and Breakers waitress. USC alumnus and Breakers owner Bradley Morgan, who graduated with a degree in marketing and management in December of 2011, bought the bar in March.

After renovating and cleaning the inside bar and outdoor patio in his plan’s first phase, Morgan began working on phase two: bringing a delicious lunch and dinner option to customers.

Breakers started serving dinner three weeks ago and began serving lunch on July 5.

“It used to be Rocco’s. It used to be disgusting,” Morgan said. “People hear ‘food’ and they don’t know the quality of it.”

The kitchen staff at Breakers has been training throughout the summer to make food from scratch. Morgan suggests trying the mozzarella sticks, which are handmade to order. Laux recommends the pimento burger,

which she enjoys when her shift is over.

The food is freshly prepared for each order and the salad dressings are made in-house.

The College World Series brought the best crowds yet, Morgan said, as the new televisions mounted on the walls throughout the bar brought customers in to watch the baseball games.

Though the number of customers isn’t yet ideal, Morgan expects business will pick up once school starts.

“Most of the money we’ve been making we’ve been reinvesting into the bar,” he said. “You’ve got to spend money to make money.”

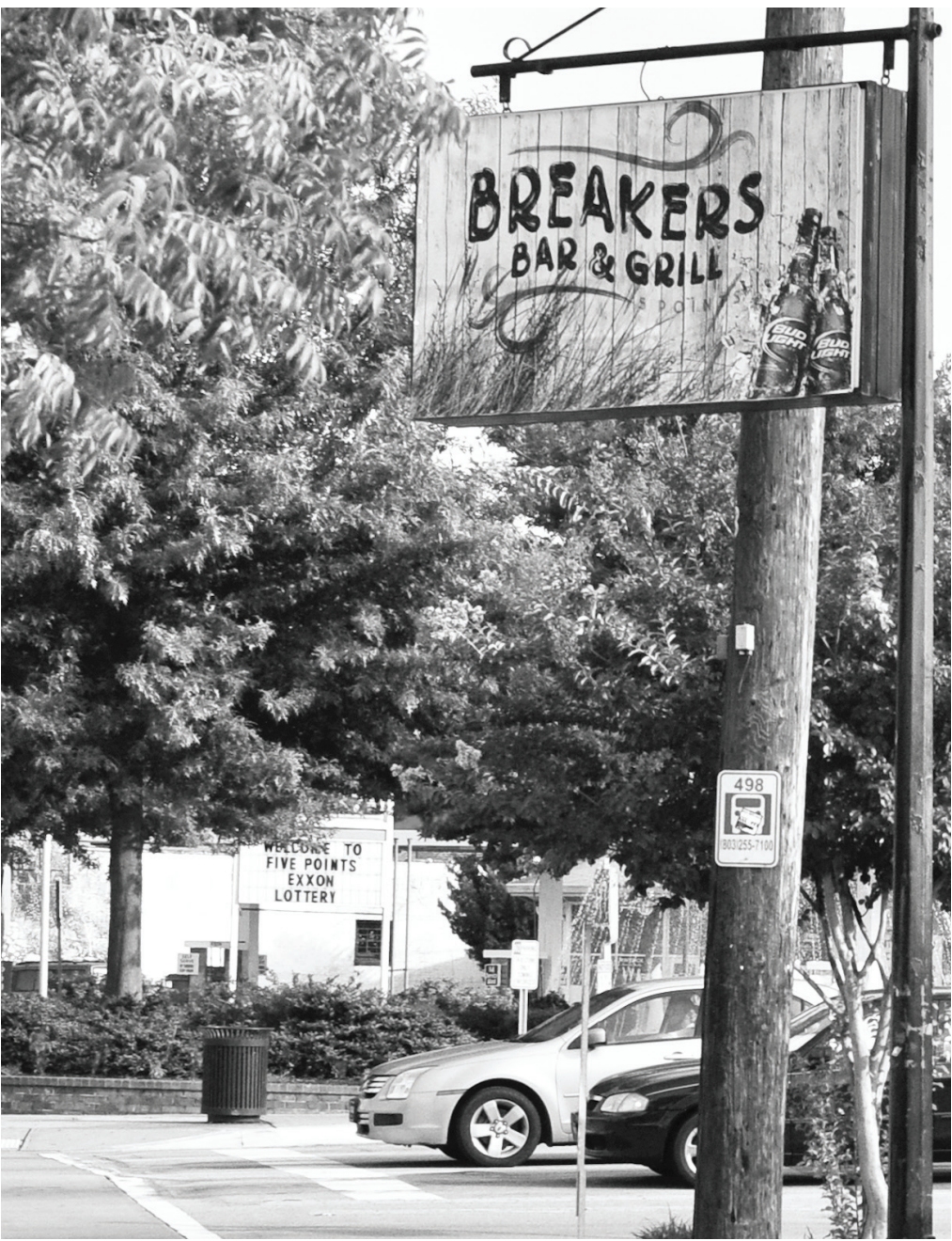
Morgan and his staff are working on a list of specials, which will include half-price burgers, chicken wing deals, all-you-can-eat shrimp and deals on their famous slushies. He also hopes to incorporate trivia and live music.

Aside from the food, Morgan will continue to renovate the patio. A new wrought iron fence will be put up around the patio and new paint will cover the outdoor area.

Morgan also plans to restructure the inside of the bar, adding another bar and a climate-controlled glass area.

“We hope people think we’re the best bar in Columbia,” Morgan said. “And we want to make the best bar better.”

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Photos by Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Breakers Bar and Grill in Five Points began serving lunch and dinner this month. Some of the restaurant’s menu offerings include mozzarella sticks, burgers, chicken wings and tacos (top).

‘Spider-Man’ reboot not quite ‘amazing’

New superhero film fails to reinvent franchise

Tyler Simpson
TSIMPSON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Many who watch “The Amazing Spider-Man” will stop for a moment and ask themselves, “Wait, didn’t I already see this movie before?”

Maybe that’s because it’s only been

10 years since Sam Raimi’s “Spider-Man” hit theaters.

So was there any need to reboot the Spider-Man franchise other than to cash in on the result during Fourth of July weekend? I can’t think of any.

But that’s not to say that “The Amazing Spider-Man” isn’t without its perks. Director Marc Webb (“500 Days of Summer”) does give us a darker version of the normal high school

nerd-turned-superhero who still deals with adolescence and young love with entertaining effects, but he drops the opportunity for a potentially better revision because of a faulty screenplay.

Now, I could go on about how this movie is basically the same film we all saw in 2002, but that is a trap that the producers got into themselves when they decided to make this film. Some of the familiar aspects were inevitable (the overall origin story including the spider bite and the power and responsibility lecture) while others didn’t have to be, like the corporate scientist gone mad, the high school bully and a death of a certain family member.

Providing a plot synopsis would be pointless since it has the same familiar basis, but there are a few different elements here. We get a quick look into Peter Parker’s (Andrew Garfield) childhood when his parents leave him with his aunt and uncle before disappearing forever. The loss of Peter’s parents supposedly adds some emotion in the first portion, but it doesn’t do much for the rest of the film.

A teenage Peter then meets Dr. Curt Connors, who has worked with Peter’s father in perfecting a cellular regeneration serum that would help regenerate amputated limbs. After testing it on himself, Connors succeeds, but soon he succumbs to a very big side effect.

The biggest problem aside from redundancy is the character of The Lizard. Remember how Dr. Octavius from “Spider-Man 2” had a legitimate motive behind his actions, which made him a compelling villain? Well, this villain has the motivation and dramatic scale of Godzilla, causing destruction just for the sake of giving Spider-Man someone to fight. Plus, the movie never specified whether or not The Lizard was supposed to be an alter-ego like the Green Goblin.

The main problems with “The Amazing Spider-Man” lie directly with the screenwriters, who miss out on an opportunity to reinvent the origin story like Christopher Nolan did for “Batman Begins.”

From a technical standpoint, though, the movie finds success. Webb displays some dazzling special effects as well as some nicely constructed action sequences. At times, however, the effects come off as too cartoonish, like during the first-person camera work of Spider-Man swinging around New York City. The final confrontation is too generic and conventional with no feeling of hazard. Again, that’s the screenplay’s fault.

Webb’s transition from a light romantic comedy to a big action blockbuster may sound strange, but



Courtesy of beyondhollywood.com
Andrew Garfield plays the title hero in “The Amazing Spider-Man,” in theaters now.

Albatross aims to revive classic rock

Local blues trio brings original songs, lesser-known covers to Bey's this weekend

Kristyn Winch
KWINCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Many bands might be leery of playing a gig on Friday the 13th, but for local rock/blues trio Albatross, the date fits right with the band's vibe and the symbolism behind its name.

"[An albatross is] a symbol for bad luck or a bad omen," said Jake Kiehl, a 2008 graduate of USC and the band's guitarist and lead vocalist.

The band didn't have a name in its early days and the name's origins were random at first.

"I came up with it because it just seemed like a good blues band name," Jake Kiehl said. "What really inspired me to say it was that Monty Python sketch ... 'Bloody sea bird,' isn't it?"

The group later made several connections to Albatross, though.

"There's a Peter Green/Fleetwood Mac song called 'Albatross,' plus the old poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,' about the albatross. And it's a double eagle in golf," Ben Kiehl, a 2011 USC graduate and the band's drummer, said.

Albatross is a bit of a family affair. Jake and Ben Kiehl are brothers and bassist Zack Stoudemayer, a 2009 graduate of Newberry College, has been making music with the brothers since they were in middle school. All three band members attended Mid-Carolina High School.

The members of Albatross describe the band's sound as a mix of classic rock and blues.

"We're inspired by '60s and '70s rock 'n' roll," Jake Kiehl said. "[Ben and I] like the older music because that's what our dad played on guitar. He'd come home from work and strum."

Their dad, who was a member of a surf-punk band called The Nelsons in the 1970s, introduced the boys to groups like the Grateful Dead.

"We thought those were his songs," Ben Kiehl said. "We'd hear [them] on the radio and go, 'Aw, man. I thought my dad wrote that song,'" Ben Kiehl said.

But the members of Albatross aren't completely stuck on older music.

"I listen to ... classical music up to [today's] music,"



Courtesy of Albatross

Jake Kiehl (left), Ben Kiehl (center) and Zack Stoudemayer (right) make up local rock/blues outfit Albatross.

Jake Kiehl said. "It's gotta have some soul to it."

The local blues musicians have been listening to groups like Alabama Shakes and The Black Keys lately. The Kiehl brothers actually grew up in the same Ohio neighborhood where Black Keys members Patrick Carney and Dan Auerbach were raised.

"There must be something in the water in West Akron that makes you like old blues music," Ben Kiehl said.

While Albatross is not currently in the process of recording new material, the band hasn't stopped thinking about upcoming projects.

"We have ideas," Jake Kiehl said.

"We did have an idea for a rock opera about horse racing," Stoudemayer said. "It's still a work in progress."

The band does not have any recordings for sale, but

several Albatross songs are available to stream for free on the group's Myspace page.

When asked how they balanced being students and being musicians, Jake Kiehl said, "It's a lot easier than working and being a musician."

Albatross will play at Bey's in Five Points at 10 p.m. on Friday.

In addition, Albatross plans to play at the Rolling Stone Bar on Rosewood Drive within the next two months.

"We're the kind of band that you'd want to have at your party," Jake Kiehl said.

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SPIDER-MAN | Continued from 5

his experience rubs off on the likable couple of Peter and Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) and the thrills of first love. Some of the film's best moments happen in scenes where Peter acts like an adorable geek around her or when the more

emotional moments come into play. The two leads, Garfield and Stone, also shine during these moments, such as when Gwen has to keep her father from discovering Peter snuck in.

The performances of Garfield and Stone help sell the film. Garfield brings a dark, sarcastic and more angsty

Peter Parker to the screen while the screenplay gives a bit of depth to his character. Stone brings an adequate amount of perkiness to her role as the intelligent Gwen Stacy. Together, they present great convincing sexual energy and chemistry (probably because they became a real-life couple while making

the film).

So, is "The Amazing Spider-Man" amazing? Not really. Is it bad? Not really. Is it necessary? Not really.

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New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

FRIDAY, JULY 13

SUNSHINE STILL, THE SEAWOLF MUTINY,
ELONZO

7 p.m. doors / 7:30 p.m. show, \$6
Conundrum Music Hall,
626 Meeting St.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

HADEN CARPENTER

10:30 p.m., free (21+ show)
Tin Roof, 1022 Senate St.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

GALLERY TOUR: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

2 p.m., free
Columbia Museum of Art,
1515 Main St.

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5:30 and 8 p.m., \$6.50 students /
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	6				3			4
9				2				8
4		8	5					1
			8		9			
6					4	2		7
5				9				6
1			6				2	
					1		7	

Level

1234

How to Play

Complete the grid so each
row, column AND 3-by-3 box
(in bold borders) contains
every digit 1 to 9.

Solution

9	2	8	1	7	4	9	6	5
6	7	5	9	8	9	2	8	1
9	1	8	8	6	2	7	2	9
2	8	7	7	1	8	6	9	9
8	7	9	6	9	8	1	2	7
1	9	6	2	2	9	8	8	7
8	8	9	2	7	1	9	7	6
7	9	1	8	8	6	7	9	2
7	6	2	9	9	7	8	1	8

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HOROSCOPES

Aries

Finances are looking
good for now. Schedule
carefully so you don't
miss anything.

Taurus

Things are looking
brighter, even if you
don't see it just yet.

Gemini

Psychic dreams inspire
romance. Get plenty of
rest tonight.

Cancer

Controversy looms at
a friend's gathering.
Your standards get
challenged.

Leo

Lots of new
assignments develop
over the next few days.
Share your dreams.

Virgo

Clear confusion before
proceeding. Use
common sense. Hide
the keys.

Libra

Changes are coming.
Don't react without
thinking first.

Scorpio

Upgrade technology or
your way of thinking to
increase productivity.

Sagittarius

You're entering a
workaholic phase. The
busier you get, the
easier is to stay out of
your head.

Capricorn

Creativity and play take
center stage. It's a good
time for love.

Aquarius

The
person yelling the
loudest isn't always
right. Be patient.

Pisces

You're
entering a learning
phase. A loved one is
upset if you're late.

Crossword

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ACROSS

1 Fair color?

6 Skipper rival

9 Gillette razor

13 Moses' mount

14 Like the Gobi
Desert

16 "House" actor
Robert ____

Leonard ____

17 Nuts

19 Agcy. whose
seal features a
shock of corn

20 First area to fill
in on a form

21 Harry Potter
series ender?

23 Up to, briefly

24 Street Cry, to
Street Sense

25 Switching device

29 "Here Come the
____": 1945
college comedy

31 Cover

32 "Leda and the
Swan" poet

33 Swing voter:
Abbr.

34 Store sign

36 "Yeah, right!"

37 Keeps at it

39 Jackie Chan
genre

42 Four-legged king

43 Fruit often dried

46 Novel opening

47 Row of seats

48 ____ queen

50 "We want you
here"

53 Targets

54 Texas Rangers
manager

Washington

55 Pat-down org.

56 Golfer's feat

58 Table scraps

60 Dally, and a
literal hint to 17-,
25-, 37- and 50-
Across

64 Stringed
instrument

65 Bygone Dodge

66 One may bring
eternal bad luck

67 Selection word

68 William, to
Charles

69 Cold metal?

DOWN

1 Egyptian cobra

2 Umpteen, with
"a"

3 Not made public

4 Came down

5 Mozart's "____
kleine
Nachtmusik"

6 6-Across
container

7 Tax-sheltered
savings, briefly

8 Effervesced

9 SW school
whose mascot
carries a
pitchfork

10 Research site

11 Give off

12 Word with stock
or market

15 Yarn colorer

18 Graduation flier

22 Terra firma

24 Phys., e.g.

26 Jackie's
designer

27 Actress with six
Oscar
nominations by
age 33

28 Hard to grasp

30 Cadenza
performer

35 One may not be
intended

36 WWII battle site,

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54				55				56	57		
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67						68			69		

for short

37 Fillable bread

38 Old Sony brand

39 Give the okay

40 Unit often
burned off

41 Capital nearest
to Philadelphia

43 What "you
always pass ...
on your way to
success":
Mickey Rooney

44 Vast

45 Electric
alternative

47 Book of sacred
poems

49 Seasoned stew

51 Hockey Hall of
Fame nickname

52 Thumbs-up vote

57 Curved pieces

59 Devilish

61 Roberto's 2012,
e.g.

62 One of two
complementary
Asian forces

63 ____ Monte Foods

Lattimore, Taylor, Clowney recognized

USC football players considered for Maxwell, Bednarik awards

Rixon Lane
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Although football season is still more than a month away, three Gamecocks are already on the watch lists of two prestigious awards. The watch lists for the Maxwell and Bednarik Awards were announced on Monday, with USC junior running back Marcus Lattimore on the Maxwell list and senior defensive end Devin Taylor and sophomore defensive end Jadeveon Clowney on the Bednarik list.

The Maxwell Award is given every year to the nation’s most outstanding collegiate football player. Named in honor of sportswriter Robert W. “Tiny” Maxwell, the award has been given each year since 1937. South Carolina has never had a player win the Maxwell Award. Lattimore is one of 64 players on the preseason watch list for the award.

Lattimore is attempting to come back from a knee injury that cost him the second half of the 2011 season. He finished the 2011 campaign with 818 yards on 163 carries and 10 rushing touchdowns. He also caught 19 passes for 182 yards and one touchdown. Lattimore is currently ranked third in USC history in rushing touchdowns, third in touchdowns scored and 14th in rushing yards. The Duncan, S.C., native has rushed for 100 or more yards eight times in his two seasons at South Carolina.

The Bednarik Award is given to the top defensive player in college football. It has been given every year since 1995 and is named for Chuck Bednarik, a member of both the College Football Hall of Fame and the NFL Hall of Fame. No Gamecock defender has ever won the award. South Carolina is one of

19 schools with at least two players on the watch list. Taylor has earned All-SEC honors both of the last two seasons and has played in 39 games in his USC career. Taylor started all 13 games last season, posting 42 tackles, six sacks and 8.5 tackles for loss. He is currently tied for fifth all-time in career sacks with 15.5 and tied for ninth for career tackles for loss with 27. Taylor was on the Bednarik preseason watch

list last year and was also named to the watch lists for the Hendricks, Lombardi and Nagurski Awards. Clowney was named the SEC Freshman of the Year following his 2011 campaign. The former South Pointe High School (S.C.) standout became the first freshman to start on the Gamecock defensive line since Travian Robertson in 2007. Clowney played in every game last year, forcing five fumbles and eight sacks. He finished the

year ranked 8th in the SEC in sacks and was the only freshman in the top 10. Clowney is one of just two sophomores on the Bednarik preseason watch list this year. Semifinalists for both awards will be announced on Oct. 29, while the three finalists will be named on Nov. 19.

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Courtesy of USC Athletics

Marcus Lattimore is on the watch list for the Maxwell Award, which goes to the nation’s most outstanding college football player.

Pitcher Dyson makes major league debut

Former Gamecock appeared in first game with Toronto Blue Jays

Rixon Lane
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The Gamecocks finally have a national champion in the major leagues. Former USC pitcher and member of the 2010 national title squad Sam Dyson was called up to the big leagues as a member of the Toronto Blue

Jays, making his major league debut Thursday against the Kansas City Royals. Dyson tossed 0.1 inning of scoreless relief in the Blue Jays’ 9-6 loss to the Royals. After being promoted to the club on Thursday afternoon, Dyson saw immediate action that evening. The former Gamecock was called on to pitch with two outs in the top of the seventh inning with Toronto trailing 5-2. After walking Billy Butler on four consecutive pitches to start his major league career, Dyson struck out Yuniesky

Betancourt to get the Blue Jays out of the inning. Before making the Blue Jays’ roster, Dyson had been a member of the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, Toronto’s Double-A affiliate. Dyson started the year with Toronto’s Class A club, the Dunedin Blue Jays. A native of Tampa, Fla., Dyson was selected by Toronto in the fourth round of the 2010 Major League draft. Dyson missed the entire 2011 season after having Tommy John surgery. He began 2012 as a starting pitcher before being moved to the bullpen in June. The 24-year-old had allowed just two runs in 24 innings out of the bullpen for the Fisher Cats before being called up. Blue Jays manager John Farrell said that Dyson might have “the best overall stuff in [Toronto’s] organization.” The former USC hurler is the first member of Toronto’s 2010 draft class to make it to the major leagues. According to the Blue Jays, Dyson will be used as a middle reliever this season. The club will decide at a later date whether Dyson will be used as a starter or relief pitcher in the future. While Dyson has reached the bigs, several members of South Carolina’s national championship teams are working toward jobs at the major league level. Former center fielder Jackie Bradley, Jr. is currently with the Double-A Portland Sea Dogs, an affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Blake Cooper is pitching with the High-A Visalia Rawhide, while Evan Marzilli has joined the Low-A Missoula Osprey, both members of the Arizona Diamondbacks’ organization. Former shortstop Bobby Haney is with the High-A San Jose Giants, while Steven Neff is pitching for the Low-A Augusta Green Jackets, both affiliates of San Francisco. Whit Merrifield, whose base hit won USC’s first national championship, is with the High-A Wilmington Blue Rocks, while former third baseman Adrian Morales is with the Low-A Burlington Royals, both affiliates of Kansas City. 2011 College World Series MVP Scott Wingo is a member of the High-A Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, an affiliate of the L.A. Dodgers. John Taylor is pitching for the Low-A Clinton LumberKings as a member of the Seattle Mariners’ organization. Matt Price is with the Gulf Coast Orioles, while Christian Walker is a member of the Aberdeen IronBirds, both Low-A affiliates of Baltimore. Adam Matthews is with the Low-A Billings Mustangs as a member of the Cincinnati Reds’ organization, and Michael Roth is pitching for the Low-A Orem Owlz after signing with the Angels.



Courtesy of USC Athletics

Sam Dyson pitched for USC during the 2010 national championship series. He signed with a Toronto affiliate in 2011.

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